

REMARKS

[0003] Applicant respectfully requests entry of the following remarks and reconsideration of the subject application. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments herein. The remarks and amendments should be entered under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 as they place the application in better form for appeal, or for resolution on the merits.

[0004] Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims of the application. Claims 1, 3, 5-15, 17, 19-29, 31, 33-43, and 45-50 are presently pending. Claims amended herein are: 1, 3, 15, 19-23, 26-29, 31, 33-35, 37, and 41-43. Claims withdrawn or cancelled herein are: 2, 4, 16, 18, 30, 32, and 44. New claims added herein are: none.

Statement of Substance of Interview

[0005] Examiner Le and Primary Examiner Pham graciously met with me—the undersigned representative for the Applicant—on January 22, 2008. Applicant greatly appreciates the Examiners' willingness to talk. Such willingness is invaluable to both of us in our common goal of an expedited prosecution of this patent application.

[0006] During the interview, I discussed how the claims differed from the cited references, namely Bowman, Adar and Bennett. Without conceding the propriety of the rejections and in the interest of expediting prosecution, we also discussed possible clarifying amendments incorporating allowable subject matter and a clarifying amendment to overcome an inadvertently omitted §101 rejection.

[0007] I understood the Examiners to tentatively agree that independent claims 1, 15, 29, and 43 would be patentable over the cited art if amended as discussed during the interview. Applicant herein amends the claims in the manner discussed during the interview. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the pending claims are allowable over the cited references of record for at least the reasons discussed during the interview.

Formal Request for an Interview

[0008] If the Examiner's reply to this communication is anything other than allowance of all pending claims, then I formally request an interview with the Examiner. I encourage the Examiner to call me—the undersigned representative for the Applicant—so that we can talk about this matter so as to resolve any outstanding issues quickly and efficiently over the phone.

[0009] Please contact me or my assistant to schedule a date and time for a telephone interview that is most convenient for both of us. While email works great for us, I welcome your call to either of us as well. Our contact information may be found on the last page of this response.

Claim Amendments

[0010] Without conceding the propriety of the rejections herein and in the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicant amends claims 1, 3, 15, 19-23, 26-29, 31, 33-35, 37, and 41-43 herein. Applicant amends claims to clarify claimed features in accordance with our discussion with the Examiner. Such amendments are made to expedite prosecution and quickly identify allowable subject matter. Such amendments are merely

intended to clarify the claimed features, and should not be construed as further limiting the claimed invention in response to the cited references.

Formal Matters

Claims

[0011] The Examiner objects to claims 4, 18, and 32 for being dependent on a rejected base claim, but otherwise allowable. Herein, Applicant amends the independent claims to include the subject matter of former claims 4, 18, and 32, which are canceled as shown above, to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner.

Substantive Matters

Allowable Subject Matter

[0012] Applicant thanks the Examiner for recognition of subject matter in each of claims 4, 18 and 32 as novel, not taught by the cited art, and therefore allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claim.

[0013] Herein Applicant incorporates the subject matter of the claims recognized as allowable into each of the independent claims, 1, 15, 29, and 43. Thus, Applicant submits that each independent claim is allowable for at least the same reasons that the subject matter of claims 4, 18, and 32 was recognized as allowable.

Claim Rejections under § 103

[0014] Claims 1, 3, 5-15, 17, 19-29, 31, 33-43, and 45-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103. In light of the amendments presented herein and the decisions/agreements reached during the above-discussed Examiner interview, Applicant submits that these rejections are moot. Accordingly, Applicant asks the Examiner to withdraw these rejections.

[0015] In addition, Applicant traverses the rejection of independent claims 1, 15, 29, and 43. Applicant maintains that the references relied upon in the Office Action for the rejections of these claims do not teach a “multi-sense query” as claimed. Rather, the primary reference, Bowman et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,006,225, teaches a *multi-term* query which relies on proximity of terms. “Multi-sense” differs from *multi-term* because no semantic relationship is utilized by the reference whereas semantic relationship is the basis of the “multi-sense” system claimed. Relationship in Bowman depends on related terms being located together. As claimed, semantic relationships are constructed by mining the context of a term or phrase. Context of terms is more than the location where a term is found. For example, the cited portion of Bowman utilizes the example of an online shopping site programmed to return best-selling products indicated as related by their positions in a table in response to a search. In addition, terms returned in Bowman’s system are determined to be related and that relationship is stored in the table so that the chosen terms are returned. Applicant maintains that this is fundamentally different than the claimed determining terms that are semantically related by mining the context of the term to determine its meaning.

Dependent Claims


[0016] In addition to its own merits, each dependent claim is allowable for the same reasons that its base claim is allowable. Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of each dependent claim where its base claim is allowable.

Conclusion

[0017] All pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt issuance of the application. If any issues remain that prevent issuance of this application, the **Examiner is urged to contact me before issuing a subsequent Action.** Please call/email me or my assistant at your convenience.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lee & Hayes, PLLC
Representatives for Applicant



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